

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 2-6, 12 and 31-33 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of canceled claims 2-6 and 12. Claim 13 has been amended into independent form and includes the limitations of claims 1 and 2 prior to the current amendment. Claim 20 has been amended into independent form and includes the limitations of claims 1, 2 and 19 prior to the current amendment. Editorial changes have been made to claims 7, 8, 10, 19, and 21-23. Claims 13 and 15-18 have been amended to replace the term "metallic container" with "container". New claims 34-36 have been added and track the limitations of claims 19, 23 and 24. New claims 37-44 have been added and track the limitations of claims 23-30. Claims 1, 7-11, 13-30, and 34-44 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-6, 19, 23-25 and 27-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakurai, U.S. 5,034,661 in view of Ward, U.S. 4,205,258 and further in view of Miyazaki, U.S. 5,773,937. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 12 and the limitations of canceled claims 2-6. Therefore, this rejection is moot and claim 1 and the claims that depend from it are in condition for allowance. Applicants do not concede the correctness of this rejection.

As noted above, claim 13 has been amended into independent form including all of the limitations of claim 1 and intervening claim 2. New claims 34-36 track the limitations of claims 19, 23 and 24 and depend from claim 13. Applicants submit that claims 13-18 and 33-36 are in condition for allowance.

Also as noted above, claim 20 has been amended into independent form including all of the limitations of claims 1 and intervening claims 2 and 19. New claims 37-44 track the limitations of claims 23-30 and depend from claim 20. Applicants submit that claims 20-22 and 37-44 are in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, Applicants request reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.



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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Mueller", written over a horizontal line.

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DPM:JNR:ae